

USSN 09/226,418  
Amendment Responsive to Office Action of March 24, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
A-1670

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, and 10 have been amended, and claims 7, 9, and 12-13 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1, 8, 10, and 20-23 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the rejections of record is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 9, including the limitations of claim 7, upon which claim 9 depended, and thus should be in condition for allowance. Claims 7 and 9 have thus been canceled. Independent claim 12 and claim 13, dependent thereupon, have also been canceled. Thus, the only remaining pending claims have all been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, and Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

These amendments have been made in order to obtain prompt issuance of the subject application, and in no way should be construed as an acknowledgment that the canceled claims are unpatentable in view of the applied prior art. It is expected that the canceled claims will be the subject of a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, an early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number below, should any further questions or issues need to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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June 21, 2004  
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